



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 13, No. 2

343 King's Highway East

May, 1970

## **ILLUSTRATED TALK ON "THE EPHRATA EXPERIMENT" TO BE PRESENTED BY PHILA. ART MUSEUM EXPERT**

Many of our members have visited EPHRATA CLOISTER in Ephrata, Penna., above Lancaster. This unique medieval cloister of the pious and ascetic Seventh-Day Baptists which was erected between 1735 and 1719, is a fascinating landmark on the Pennsylvania Trail of History, now administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Because of the great interest of historians in this beautifully preserved religious community, our program chairman has scheduled for our May meeting a talk on the subject by Alexandra W. Fogel of the Philadelphia Art Museum art staff. Mrs. Fogel will trace the German and Pennsylvania German influences on Ephrata and discuss those characteristics of Ephrata Cloister which make it unique in American landmarks.

Mrs. Fogel is one of the fortunate few to have studied art at the Barnes Foundation and has taken the Museum course for guiding in the Colonial Mansions of Fairmount Park. She is well-known as a lecturer on Pennsylvania German subjects, on the Shakers, and subjects of the 18th century in Philadelphia.

As a background to Mrs. Fogel's talk, it is interesting to know that Ephrata Cloister represents a unique expression of the religious fervor which was an out-

**DATE:** Monday, May 25

**TIME:** 8 P. M.

**At Friends Meeting Auditorium,  
Lake Street.**

standing characteristic of the early history of Pennsylvania. Here on the banks of Cocalico Creek lived a community of men and women who sought to serve God in medieval fashion through lives of austere self-denial and pious simplicity.

Conrad Beissel, leader of these German Seventh-Day Baptists, began a hermit's existence here in 1732, but found it necessary within a few years to create

*(Continued on page four)*

## **JULY PICNIC MEETING PLANS VISIT TO CAMDEN CO. SOCIETY**

Mark your calendars for July 11 when our Society will visit the recently completed building complex of the Camden County Historical Society from 3 to 5 P. M., and return to Greenfield Hall for our usual picnic supper. A card announcement will be mailed to members later. As background to our visit, Dr. William J. Snape has provided us with some interesting historical notes on the county Society (See page two)

**POMONA HALL—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

**by Dr. William J. Snape, Chairman of Museum Committee and Trustee**

The Camden County Historical Society was founded in 1899 by the prominent citizens of Camden County. Judges, publishers, clergymen, lawyers, bankers, educators and physicians, were active in its early organization. In 1947 the County Society re-incorporated with the purposes "to discover, procure, collect, and preserve and make available to its members, to the public schools and to the general public whatever relates to any department of history of Camden County, New Jersey, natural, civil, literary, political, military, social, educational and ecclesiastical and to disseminate knowledge concerning the same."

In 1921 Charles S. Boyer was elected president of the County Society. Mr. Boyer continued as president until his death in 1936. During this time Boyer wrote authoritatively on numerous subjects pertaining to the history of Camden County and southern New Jersey. He, moreover, during these years was a source of encouragement to several then-young-men such as John Morgan, Elmer Van Name, Warren Stafford, Harry Marvin, and Samuel Richard among others, to research and document the history of Camden County. Lastly, Charles Boyer in his last will requested his wife to endow generously the Camden County Historical Society. Mrs. Boyer graciously conformed to her spouse's desires upon her death in 1956. With this bequest, the trustees of The Society inherited the responsibility to house and display Mr. Boyer's collection for the education of the people of the County. Therefore, after considerable debate, Honorable R. Cooper Brown, Judge of the Superior Court and president of the

Society, in agreement with the trustees, elected to erect a historical complex around the venerable and historically significant Pomona Hall. This complex including a library of 6800 volumes, an expansive auditorium, and a well-planned museum, designed by Louis H. Goetzelmann, president of the Haddonfield Historical Society.

Pomona Hall, the keystone of the complex was erected by Joseph Cooper, Jr. in 1726. Joseph Cooper, Jr. was genealogically related to practically every important family in South Jersey as well as several prominent lines of Quakers of Pennsylvania. He served in the general Assembly for 19 years. During the entire time he resided at Pomona Hall. Not only was Cooper an important politician figure, he had wide and varied financial interests and was counted among the friends of Benjamin Franklin. On his death in 1749, he was eulogized by the Haddonfield Friends meeting thus: "He was an exemplary friend and serveable amongst us in many respects: was generally well respected, careful to rule well his own house . . . ." The house eventually passed into the possession of Marmaduke Cooper by inheritance. Marmaduke, a successful breeder of horses, cattle, and hogs enlarged the house to its present dimension in 1788. The present board of trustees are committed to restore this dwelling so intimately connected with early civil, religious and financial history of the County to its original condition, so that the present and future generations of school children may be mindful of the rich heritage endowed them by their surrogate ancestors.

## AN HISTORIC LOOK AT THE JENNINGS HOUSE

236 King's Highway, East

Submitted by Mrs. Edw. W. Jennings,  
Corresponding Secretary of the Society

*(Behind the charming facades of Haddonfield's historic houses are the human stories of the early families who lived there. To preserve these houses is to preserve the unique history of a town which proudly spans three centuries. The following paper submitted by our member, Elinor Jennings, was written by Mary Jennings Browning Evans, cousin of Dr. William Browning Jennings by whom she was raised, and who lived at the Jennings House forty or more years. Elinor's husband, the late Ned Jennings, nephew of Dr. Jennings, also lived there from his childhood until maturity.)*

The Jennings House, of 236 King's Highway, East, Haddonfield, was located between Samuel Reeves home, a lovely red brick house three stories high. The entrance had iron grille work on both sides of the steps and an iron fence across the front of the yard. Dr. Lawrence Litchfield Glover was born there. The home had many beautiful antiques.

On the other side, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Horter, their three daughters and one son. Miss Kate Horter had a beautiful voice and played the piano too. Their music was on our side of the house and gave us much pleasure. as Miss Kate had a friend with a beautiful tenor voice.

It was through Mr. Horter's efforts that the trolleys first ran to Haddonfield, coming from Haddon Avenue to King's Highway. They later ran from the railroad to Potter Street.

Across the street near the buttonwood trees was a quaint little house belonging to Captain Cooper. There were old fashioned closets on either side of the fire-

place reaching from floor to ceiling, a very narrow stairway winding up to the second floor. It later became a movie house.

Now for No. 236. The house is right on the street. In the back was an English walnut tree, a very tall spruce tree which was struck by lightning, a brick walk going back to a two story building, the bottom contained two toilets and an empty space for the storage of garden tools. The second floor was a large room where the coachman stayed. Beyond this building were fruit trees, a grape arbor and a vegetable garden. To hide the barnyard was a row of beautiful white and purple lilacs. The barn was large and contained a big box stall, three small stalls and space for carriage and sleigh. Back of the barn was a large covered shed where the horses and carriages were washed—also a large corn crib. Mr. Horter owned the field in back where his milk cow was pastured. This field later became the tennis court and was finally bought by the U. S. Post Office Department.

The Jennings house was built in 1857 by a Dr. Hall and bought in 1867 by Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Jennings, who lived there with his wife Mary Browning Jennings and son William Browning Jennings, born in 1865. All six of the other children were born in the house.

Dr. Jennings wife was the daughter of Jasial Pauly Browning and Amelia Clement. Mr. Browning's ancestors were the Pauls of Paulsboro, who later had a large home at 35 King's Highway West, in Haddonfield. After Dr. Jennings' death, his widow moved to this home to

*(Continued on page four)*

## Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 118

Haddonfield, N. J.

FORM #3547 REQUESTED

4

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

#### **HISTORIC VILLAGE FAIR; SOCIETY EVENT ON JUNE 6**

With its change of name from "Flea Market" to "Historic Village Fair," our annual June event promises to be bigger and more alluring than ever.

Patricia Lennon, Chairman of the Woman's Committee, sponsor of the Fair, reports on the highlights of the day-long festivities:

The Auction, offering lovely antiques and new articles—demonstrations of popular arts and crafts, wild flower arranging, woodworking, quill pen cutting, etc. Hand-made articles by Society members including tole ware, tape measures, book marks, pomanders, sachets, Historical Society items for sale—stationery, soap, tiles and trays. Good things to eat—strawberries, baked goods. The Clothes Line Art Show. Again, the hot dog stand and the leisurely luncheon. Books, white elephants . . . and just about everything nice. Don't miss it!

*(Continued from page one)*

a community of three parts—A Sisterhood and a Brotherhood, both of which practiced celibacy, and a group of married "householders." Buildings for the community were erected between 1735 and 1749, and the medieval-type architecture was an expression of the religious principles of the order.

*(Continued from page three)*

live with her bachelor brother, Isaac Browning.

Dr. William Browning Jennings bought the house from his mother. He married Laura Vail. Dr. Jennings died in 1928 and his widow lived in the house until 1929.

Originally the house had no bay windows and no porch. The front steps had iron grillwork on each side. The entrance was a vestibule with frosted glass on the inside doors, to the right was a living room, and to the left a large parlor with French windows at the back. Two steps went down to the dining room and two more steps down to the kitchen, three steps to an outside brick room containing a big brick oven with places on each side to store wood and an old fashioned hand pump.

Dr. Jennings senior and junior were both graduates of the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Office visits were 50 cents including medicine, maternity cases were \$15.00 and a house call \$2.00 day or night, and often a seven or eight mile drive added.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor

Historical Society Bulletin

Send all editorial contributions to:

120 Warwick Road

Haddonfield, N. J.